



Downside Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 2 children,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a busy spring term for Year 2. The children worked very hard during the first part of the year and some good progress has already been made. During the term ahead, they will be finding out about a famous children's author and illustrator and they will continue to develop their scientific skills by exploring humans and healthy living.

Literacy

The children are studying the stories of Roald Dahl this term and they will be learning how to explore, describe and compare some of the different characters that he has created. Later in the term they will have a go at creating their own characters and building a story around them. Regular visits to a library near you will enable your child to borrow and read further stories by this exciting author. Guided and individual reading will take place each week. During these sessions, the children will develop their reading and comprehension skills. Please continue to give your child daily opportunities to practise their spellings, sentence-writing and reading. We will also start reading our Year 2 book: 'The Magic Finger'. Every child will receive a copy of this text along with activities to complete at home. We will be having a special performance of 'The BFG' in school and we will provide you with more detailed information closer to the time.

Numeracy

The children will continue to improve their mental calculation and problem-solving skills using all 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). They will also increase their mathematical vocabulary and will have the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of place value, estimating and rounding. You can support them by ensuring that they practise their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables and learn doubles and number facts for numbers up to 20. Learning the names and properties of common 2D and 3D shapes will help the children in their work in shape and space. You can help them in their understanding of measure by pointing out lengths, weights and capacities of household objects and by getting them to read scales such as rulers, weighing scales and jugs.



Science

During the spring term, Year 2 children will be studying how animals move, feed and grow; what they need to stay alive and how to treat all creatures with respect. They will also identify the parts of the human body; learn about the senses and improve their understanding of the importance of exercise and healthy eating. They will be using information sources to research both of these topics so would benefit from finding out about animals and healthy living from the library, books, newspapers or the internet.

Art and Design Technology

To link in with our topics this term, the children will explore and recreate story illustrations in the style of famous illustrators such as Quentin Blake, and they will plan and create a healthy meal or menu.

PE

In outdoor PE, children will learn key hockey skills – how to hold a hockey stick and how to dribble in hockey. Indoor PE will focus on tennis and refining the children's tennis skills. Next half term, children will be introduced to orienteering and will create their own dance sequences in indoor PE.

Music

In the first half term, the children will be developing their knowledge of dynamics and duration (volume and length of sounds) and in the second half term, will be learning about musical instrument families with a special focus on woodwind and tuned and untuned percussion.

Homework next term will be a combination of reading activities and numeracy tasks. We will continue to provide children with 'learn-it' activities each week along with their score. We will also be asking children to brush up on their spelling and arithmetic skills as the school will be holding competitions in both of these areas.

I hope this information will help you provide support for your child at home. If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Ball
Year 2 Leader